

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 9, 2022**

At the *, please stand, if you are able.
Large Print Hymnals, Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices are available upon request.

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"Adagio"

Corelli

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic29lJkuaow>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Smoke, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity will be held Sunday 10/16/22 at Covenant PC 211 Roletto, SA TX 78213. Dinner: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Entertainment: 6:45 pm -7:45 pm. For tickets to the event and for the raffle, please speak with Irene Thomas. Thank you for your support!

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "When Morning Lights the Eastern Skies"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKFdMfQHGn4>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Everyone who serves God come and offer thanks.

All: Thank you God for your love to me

Leader: Everyone who has gathered in this place, lift your hands and praise God

All: Thank you God for your love in this place

Leader: Shout praises to God for you are God's servants, so shout praises.

All: Thank you God for your love to others

Leader: All who serve in this place, who serve our God, come and shout praises.

All: Thank you God for your love that we can share

Leader: Praise the name of our God who is kind and good.

All: Thank you God for your love endures forever.

OPENING PRAYER

God of transcending peace, when the world around us turns us astray, we come here not to escape, but to rest, rejoice, and turn our minds on things that are worthy. Help us not to be anxious about anything, but to turn to You in everything, knowing You are near. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN**

"To God Be The Glory"

Blue Hymnal #485

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

*** SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST (From your seats, please)**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Leader: As God's forgiven people, share the peace of Christ with each other.

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, Your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not like ours. By the power of Your Spirit at work within us, open Your Word to us this morning. Teach us what is noble, what is right, what is pure, what is lovely, and what is admirable. Empower to truly see as You see, and to hear what You hear, and put Your Word into action. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2029%3A1%2CJeremiah%2029%3A4-7&version=NIV>

SECOND READING

Psalms 66:1-11

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+66%3A1-11&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Give to the Winds Thy Fears"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hblgvTYG7mA>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Timothy 2:8-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A8-15&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:11-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+17%3A11-19&version=NIV>

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

[Jesus Heals Ten Lepers - YouTube](#)

SERMON

God Sent a Prophet

Fred Archer

Written by the Rev. Warren Thomas Swenson

Look again at today's collect. "Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works..."

That's a good thing to pray for— "that we may continually be given to good works."

In other words, we should do good work—God's work—in the world. Just in case we get caught up in the idea that our works might be the source of our salvation, this prayer calls our attention to the true source of those good works: God's grace.

We pray for God's grace to precede and follow us *because God's grace is precisely what makes our good works possible.*

The order of that is very important. God's grace comes first. Our works follow. When you look at it that way, it can make that work seem a whole lot more manageable.

As a part of the Church, we are living members of the Body of Christ in the world. Our mission is God's mission. Our ministry is God's ministry. Our work is God's work. God empowers us to share in it with grace.

We heard this morning a portion of Jeremiah's message to the Israelites exiled in Babylon: "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease."

Jeremiah is encouraging the Israelites to put down roots. It's as if he's saying, "You're in this for the long haul." It's not exactly welcome news to the Israelites in captivity. If you have been exiled from your homeland, "put down roots" is probably the last thing you'd want to hear the prophet say. The trouble is, prophets aren't in the business of telling people what they want to hear. Prophets are in the business of telling people the truth.

So often, folks want to hear things like, "Everything's coming up roses!" But nobody needs a prophet to tell them that. When everything's coming up roses, everyone is content to go on enjoying the status quo.

What folks need to hear from a prophet are things like, "Brace yourself. Things are going to get tough for a while." God sends prophets to be honest when people need honesty most, to "get real" with folks when the last thing they want to do is get real.

God sends a prophet to a couple who have decided they have no option left but divorce. God sends a prophet to a woman whose job transfers her 2,000 miles away from her family. God sends a prophet to a teenager whose father is sentenced to 12-15 years in a federal penitentiary.

It doesn't do any good avoiding the truth. That's why God sends a prophet—not to tell us what we want to hear, but to tell us what we need to hear when we need to hear it.

Times get tough for all of us. When they do, we don't have to like it, but in order to have the slightest hope of getting through it, you do eventually have to accept it. So, God sends Jeremiah to tell it like it is. That's why Jeremiah urges the Israelites to go on living their lives.

“Lay a foundation, put up some walls and build a roof, plant some food, get married, have babies.” In other words, “Do the work God has given you to do.” No, this isn’t an ideal situation, but it is the first step toward accepting their new normal, and they’ve got to do that to have a chance at surviving.

The daily life and work that Jeremiah urges them toward are not meant merely to distract them from their troubles. He is not saying, “This will take your mind off of things for a while. Have a hot bath, take a walk in the woods, get a coloring book or a cross-stitch pattern.”

The work that he is urging them to do is God’s work, and it is crucial for them to do it so that they can reconnect with God in this foreign land. As they resume their routine, they will, by God’s grace, be reminded that God is still with them.

Build the house. Who fashioned the stones from chaos? God. Plant the garden. Who sends the rain from the heavens? God. Get married. Who created us, one for another? God. Be fruitful and multiply. Who blessed all of Abraham’s righteous offspring? God.

In a nutshell, the prophet’s message for them is this: return to a steady rhythm of life and you will once again realize that God’s grace is what makes your life possible—even in Babylon. If they prayed, as we did this morning, that God’s grace would precede them, then in the prophet’s message, that prayer is answered.

Life isn’t always easy. Even though we may not like it, we are often called to summon the courage to accept it. Sometimes we need to be reminded that getting out of bed in the morning and putting one foot in front of the other is all we have to do to experience the grace of God.

It is hard, but it is not impossible.

There is a little church in a small southern town that has of late been through some pretty rough times. You may know some churches like it. One day, not too terribly long ago, nearly the entire congregation walked out. They weren’t happy anymore, so they thought they would organize a new parish down the road.

That kind of division in the Church is the source of incredible lament. Imagine how hard it must have been for the faithful remnant of folks to walk into a nearly-empty building the following Sunday.

So, God sent a prophet.

Those of us who were not there will never know exactly what those faithful folks heard the prophet say. It probably wasn’t “build houses” or “plant gardens.”

Perhaps it was something like, “Answer the phone, pay the bills, print the bulletins, say your prayers.” In other words, “Do the work God has given you to do.”

There is another congregation at a small crossroads in the rural southeast that struggled with membership for years. People died, people moved away, people stopped coming. There were some disagreements, some harsh words, a few apologies, a lot of mixed emotions. Times were tough.

So, God sent a prophet.

They, too, heard a word from the prophet. “Things are going to be tough for a while. You are going to have to make some difficult decisions. Keep doing the work God has given you to do.”

And so, the people of that parish prayed, they worshiped, they studied the Bible, they took care of the sick, they fed the hungry, they clothed the naked. In fact, they still do, and by God’s grace, they always will.

By that same grace, so will we all. Amen

* **HYMN**

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Blue Hymnal #306

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdNASJDwvAU>

Respond in Love and Service

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please, continue to support the life and work of Crestholme. You can mail your tithes, pledges, and offerings to...

CPC
PO Box 23919.
SA TX 78223-0901

Or you can save them and gather them until we meet again. Thank you!

Yours, O Lord, are grandeur and power, majesty, splendor, and glory. All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.

* **DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOtHU>

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.

* **HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

"Heal Our Land"

Red Hymnal #800

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

For the Church, the world, and all people, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief silence

Dear Lord, give us steadfast love and heartfelt gratitude for every good gift that comes from you! We are so blessed. Tune our hearts to sing your praise. Make our feet lovely with the eagerness to run to others with tokens of your mercy and goodness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to your Church the faithful love for you and for one another that Ruth had for Naomi. Stir up in it the thankful worship of the Samaritan leper. Grant it the bold and truthful witness of Paul and Timothy. Raise up righteous pastors, theologians, and other leaders. And use your Church to show your goodness toward those who fear you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation – its people, its ministries, and its mission. In all things, shape us into vessels of your generosity and holiness, so that many people may receive life and salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to remember, defend, assist, and walk with Christians who are persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Let their faith, hope and love be a shining witness in places of spiritual darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world, broken by evil and bruised by violence. Give us teachable hearts that rejoice in, and strive to obey, your precepts. Give wisdom, integrity, and common sense to our elected and appointed leaders. Guide all who are entrusted with authority in government, commerce, education, and whatever else affects your people in their everyday lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be gracious and merciful to widows and widowers, and to all are embittered by loss and grief. Help us to walk with them in their sorrow, and to show them kindness, friendship, and understanding.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our Lord Jesus, in his infinite compassion, healed ten lepers. We pray that he do so the same for everyone afflicted by disease, despair, or the shadow of death. Especially we lift before you the needs of: {List}. Grant them healing, hope, and grateful hearts; and reunite them with all who love them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most Holy and blessed Father, bring your perfect, eternal healing to all who have died trusting in your promises. Comfort all who mourn. Give us devoted friendship, diligent service, and grateful hearts. For Jesus' sake, deliver us from evil and forgive us our sins. Heal us in body, soul, mind, and heart, so with our whole being, we may love and praise you eternally in the company of everyone you have redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we entrust our prayers and petitions into your hands, gracious Father, for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.

and all God's people say: AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=976gBjKqEjY>

*** CLOSING HYMN "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" Blue Hymnal #343**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SqaZEjJtbq>

*** BENEDICTION**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**. The End of Today's Worship Service – The Beginning of Service
Announcements**

Welcome to worship with us this morning! We're glad that you're here! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of our compassionate church family... ask Carlos or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Next Sunday Dr. Carlos Baladez will present our next sermon in the series "Knowing God by Name."

Weekly Calendar

Tue & Thur	09:30-11:00 AM	Food Pantry
TBD	TBD	Clothes Closet
Sunday	10:00 AM	Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 Am	Worship Service

Holy Communion is observed the First Sunday of each month.

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Officers

Session

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Irene Thomas	Katie Lamb	Netsy Williamson
Steve Tovar		

Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist
Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Trustees

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Fred Archer	Tommy Rudwick	Penny Christoff

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Staff

Stated Supply Minister	Vacant
Pulpit Supply Preachers	Dr. Carlos Baladez
	Elder Fred Archer
Choir Director	Robin Bernhard
Organist	Cathie Owen
Secretary/Coordinator	Vacant

Membership in the Presbyterian Church is open to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Every member and officer will be more than happy to visit with you about salvation by faith in Jesus and membership at Crestholme.

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Web Site: www.crestholmepec.com

Email: foodpantry@crestholmepec.org